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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

CHINA
HUANG Hua
June 1978

(U) NAME: HUANG Hua (7806/5478)
(pronounced hwahng)

(U) POSITION: Minister of Foreign Affairs
(since December 1976).



As his country's foremost expert on US affairs, Huang Hua has been influential at every juncture in bilateral relations since the 1940s. With his background in dealing with Westerners, his Central Committee membership, and his ties to the old-line leadership, he was a natural choice for his current position.

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Huang's exclusive concern with external affairs appears to have worked against him recently. Having spent most of his career in diplomatic assignments far from China, he does not have strong ties to the current leadership. At the time he was appointed Foreign Minister, it was assumed that Premier Hua Guofeng, who lacked experience in foreign policy matters, would rely on him heavily. China's concentration on domestic affairs and the increasing influence of Vice Premier Geng Biao on foreign policy have kept Huang from the limelight, however. Huang has long been known to be irascible, and this quality has limited his effectiveness as a negotiator. His role, in fact, seems to have been reduced to meeting the large number of Western delegations that visit China.

Huang attended Yenching University in the mid-1930s. He joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1935 and led several student demonstrations protesting government inaction against Japanese aggression in China. During the late 1940s, Huang assisted Premier Zhou Enlai in talks with the Chinese Nationalists, and after 1949 he rose steadily in the new government's foreign affairs apparatus. During 1971-76 Huang was China's first Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The sophisticated Huang clearly enjoyed the freedom that accompanied his UN assignment. His energetic manner makes him appear younger than his 65 years. His wife, He Liliang, is a deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations and Conferences and Treaty and Law Department.